

Serial No.: 10/099,769
Filing Date: March 14, 2002

Examiner: A. Oltmans
Art Unit: 1742

REMARKS

Claims 44-58 and 60-74 are currently pending.

Claims 1-43 and 59 have been cancelled.

Claim 58 has been amended

New claims 60-74 have been added.

In the Office action mailed on March 23, 2004, the Examiner indicated the allowability of claims 44-57. New claim 58 has been amended to depend from claim 44 and is therefore also presumed to be allowable.

New claims 60-74 are similar to claims 1-44 and require the presence of aluminum ions that improve the performance of the conversion coating. In view of the reasons for allowance provided by the Examiner, it is believed that new claims 60-74 are also allowable.

It is believed that this application is in a condition for immediate allowance and such action is earnestly sought. It is believed that no new issues are raised and no additional search is required. As a result, submission of this response after final is believed appropriate.

Respectfully Submitted,



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